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Agency News

ERS Board of Trustees election voting begins March 6

Created in 1947, the Employee Retirement System administers a benefits package which includes retirement benefits, health and other insurance benefits, as well as the TexFlex program and Texa\$aver 401(k) and 457 investment accounts. Before August 31 of each odd-numbered year, the Board of Trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas is required to elect a trustee. This year's election is to fill the position held by Yolanda (Yoly) Griego, whose term is expiring.

If you are an ERS member as of January 31, or if you are a retired state employee receiving an annuity from ERS, you are eligible to vote. ERS will mail out an election newsletter and ballot in early March. Voting online or by mail begins March 6 and ends on April 10. Paper ballots are mailed to members' homes, and voters can cast ballots by mail or online at www.ers.state.tx.us. Do not vote both online and on a paper ballot; if duplicate votes

are received, both are disqualified. The candidate receiving the most votes will be certified as the new trustee.

Candidates for the position include TDCJ Chief Financial Officer Jerry McGinty, Program Specialist Ilesa Daniels of the Health and Human Services Commission, and Elections Administration Manager Louri O'Leary from the Secretary of State office.



Jerry McGinty

A recording of the March 5 candidate forum is available on the ERS website throughout the voting period.

The contested position on the six-member ERS board is one of three filled through election. The other three members are appointed, one each by the Governor, the Speaker of

the House and the Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Both appointed and elected members serve staggered six-year terms. Member duties and responsibilities include trust fund investment decisions, approval of a legislative agenda and the selection of benefit providers.

Election results will be certified on May 6. A runoff election will be held if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote. The term of the winning candidate runs from September 2015 until August 31, 2021. ●